

US Intelligence agency's report regarding Pak Nuclear status

***273. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent report by a US intelligence agency states that Pakistani Nuclear arsenal and means of delivery are more effective, more sophisticated and much larger than India; and

(b) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of media reports, claiming to be based on assessments by US officials, that Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes are more advanced than previously assessed. Government relies on its own assessment of Pakistan's nuclear and missile capabilities. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Filing of movable and immovable property returns by Government Servants

***274. SHRI R. K. ANAND:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to require public servants to submit their movable and immovable property returns on an affidavit to ensure clean public life and contain corruption among public servants; and

(b) whether the review of property returns is being regularly undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the provisions of the Conduct Rules, a Government servant other than a Group D is required to submit a return of his assets and liabilities on his first appointment to Government service. Every Officer holding Group 'A' or Group 'B' post is also required to submit an annual return of immovable property inherited, owned or acquired by him.

A Government servant is not required to submit any annual return in respect of movable property. However, every Government servant is required to report on his transactions in movable property where its value exceeds Rs. 15,000/- (in the case of Group 'A' or Group 'B' Officers) or Rs. 10,000 (for Group 'C' and Group 'D' Officials) and immovable property (without any monetary limits) in the prescribed form which contains a declaration that the particulars given are true.

Disciplinary action under the disciplinary rules can be taken against a Government servant who fails to submit the return/report in time or for furnishing wrong information. Hence, there is no need of filing any affidavit in the matter.

(b) The property returns/reports are to be maintained by the prescribed authorities in the administrative ministry/department/offices, after such scrutiny as may be considered necessary. Such information is not centrally monitored.

Permission to form Association under Trade Union Act

*275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the various Public Sector Undertakings under Government are permitted to form associations under the Trade Union Act;

(b) if so, the names of such associations formed in the various Public Sector Undertakings till date and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any alternative forum is available to the officers of the various Public Sector Undertakings where they can raise their service complaints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not known if the associations have been registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 as the powers of registration of trade unions have been delegated under this Act to the State Governments for appointment of Registrars who have been vested with the powers to register a trade union.

(c) and (d) It has been reported that public sector officers have formed an association in the name of National Confederation of Officers' Association (NCOA) representing the entire Central Government public sector enterprises. The Department of Public